

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION  
OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, February 9, 1943

OWI-1225

Captain and crew of the Boston fishing trawler Cormorant today received special recognition for their contribution to the nation's war food program.

The recognition, for recent exceptional production records, was contained in a telegram to Captain Cliff Vanamburg for Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes.

"Your outstanding catch," the Coordinator said in his message, "of more than 653,000 pounds of fighting food in five trips from December 30 through January 28 deserves special recognition. The country should know about it. To you and each of the 25 men in your crew I send my heartiest and most sincere commendations with encouragement to you and your men to continue this splendid work."

The Cormorant, built in Boston in 1928, is a 140 foot, 370-ton otter trawl outfitted for offshore groundfish operations. In 1941, the last year for which complete catch figures are available, the vessel brought in almost  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds of fish. Then, as for the current catch, the species landed were mainly pollock, haddock, cod, and "dabs".

"High liner" hailing catch figures have recently been an object of special attention by the Coordinator's Office. Some recent compilations indicate amazing individual records of production, according to Coordinator Ickes. On the basis of 'year-round seasonal fishing, for example, one New England trawler, catching flounders, haddock, cod, hake, etc., took 391,000 pounds for each of the 17-man crew; one tuna clipper, with 15 men took 274,000 pounds per fisherman; a small otter trawler (dragger), with 4 men, fishing flounders, took 225,000 pounds per man; and one rosefish trawler, with a 9-man crew, took 337,000 pounds per man.

Other records of highliners include a pilchard (and tuna) seiner which, in an 8-months season, took 1,170,000 pounds per man with a crew of 11; a mackerel seiner, with 12 men, which took 150,000 pounds per man in the same length season; a herring seiner, carrying 8 men, which took 812,000 pounds per man in its 4 months operation; a salmon purse-seiner which, with 8 men took 104,000 pounds per man in 3 months; and a salmon-gill-netter, each of whose 2-man crew, took 163,000 pounds in the 18 days of fishing permitted for the season in that particular area (Bristol Bay, Alaska).